

Message Text

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42

ACTION EA-10

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----- 121055

R 210855Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8279

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L JAKARTA 6139

CANBERRA FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY HABIB

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR ASEAN ID

SUBJECT: MALIK'S VIEWS ON ASEAN FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING

1. SUMMARY. IN MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR MAY 21 FOREIGN

MINISTER MALIK SAID PRINCIPLES

DISCUSSED AT ASEAN

FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING WERE MILITARY COOPERATION,

INTERNAL STRENGTH, TREATY OF AMITY, ZONE OF PEACE,

RELATIONS WITH VIETNAM AND SUMMIT. FULL AGREEMENT ON

LATTER DEPENDS ON VIEWS OF LEE KUAN YEW. END SUMMARY.

2. IN HALF HOUR MEETING AT HIS RESIDENCE MAY 21,

FOREIGN MINISTER MALIK DESCRIBED RECENT ASEAN FOREIGN

MINISTERS MEETING AS USEFUL AND AS INDICATION OF GROWING

STRENGTH OF GROUP.

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3. MINISTERS FIRST DISCUSSED MILITARY COOPERATION, INCLUDING IMPROVED EXCHANGE OF INTELLIGENCE. DISCUSSION STOPPED SHORT, HOWEVER, OF CONCRETE AGREEMENT ON DETAILS. INDONESIA WAS FORCED TO TELL THAIS THEY COULD NOT EXPECT GOI TO PROVIDE MILITARY HELP IN EVENT OF CONFLICT WITH COMMUNIST COUNTRY IN INDOCHINA. MALIK SAID HE STRESSED NEED FOR EACH COUNTRY TO BUILD ITS OWN STRENGTH. THERE WAS DISCUSSION AND AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE ON JOINT ASEAN USE OF NATUNA ISLAND.

4. MALIK SAID HE STRESSED IN DISCUSSIONS WITH ASEAN COLLEAGUES IMPORTANCE OF THEIR BUILDING INTERNAL STRENGTH. HE SAID HE FELT THAIS SHOULD MAKE GREATER USE OF KING AS RALLYING POINT OF NATIONAL STRENGTH AND THAT MARCOS SHOULD BUILD PHILIPPINE RESILIENCE ON CATHOLIC FAITH. HE ADMITTED THAT MALAYSIAN PROBLEM WAS MORE SEVERE BECAUSE OF CHINESE-MALYSIAN SPLIT.

5. MOST SIGNIFICANT MOVEMENT WAS TOWARD TREATY OF AMITY WHICH PRESUMABLY WILL BE SIGNED AT ASEAN SUMMIT. SUMMIT IS AGREED IN PRINCIPLE BUT DATE DEPENDS UPON FURTHER CONSULTATIONS, PARTICULARLY WITH LEE KUAN YEW.

6. ZONE OF PEACE PROPOSAL WAS DISCUSSED BUT WITHOUT CONCLUSION. MALIK SAID HE STRESSED THAT IT WAS IMPRACTICAL TO BELIEVE THAT MAJOR POWERS WOULD WITHDRAW FROM AREA OR GIVE GUARANTEE. ZONE OF PEACE PROPOSAL LIKELY APPEAR FINALLY AS STATEMENT OF DESIRES OF ASEAN COUNTRIES RATHER THAN IN ANY MORE FORMAL DOCUMENTS.

7. ON BASES, MALIK AID THERE WAS GENERAL AGREEMENT THAT BASES WOULD ULTIMATELY GO BUT THAT THERE SHOULD BE NO HURRY. WHEN AMBASSADOR ASKED HIM WHAT ROMULO'S POSITION WAS, MALIK SAID HE UNDERSTOOD FROM ROMULO THAT PHILIPPINES WOULD SEEK REMOVAL OF SUBIC BAY AND CLARK FIELD "BUT OVER LONG PERIOD OF TIME."

8. THERE WAS ALSO DISCUSSION OF RELATIONS WITH VIETNAM BUT NO CONCLUSIONS WERE REACHED. MALYSIA AND THAILAND INDICATED THEIR INTEREST IN PURCHASING AMERICAN ARMS
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FROM HANOI. THEY UNDERSTOOD SUCH ARMS NOW BEING MARKED THROUGH HONG KONG OUTLET BUT MALIK SAID INDONESIA HAD NO CONFIRMING INTELLIGENCE ON THIS.

9. WHEN AMBASSADOR INQUIRED WHETHER THERE WAS ANY DISCUSSION OF U.S. POSITION, MALIK SAID ASEAN COUNTRIES ASSUMED U.S. WOULD CONTINUE PLAY IMPORTANT ROLE AND THEY WELCOMED THIS. THEY WOULD NEED MORE RATHER THAN

LESS U.S. HELP IN FUTURE. AMBASSADOR TOLD FOREIGN MINISTER GOI ATTITUDE NOT TOTALLY CLEAR AND REFERRED SPECIFICALLY TO MALIK'S PUBLIC STATEMENT OF MAY 17 (JAKARTA 5963) STRONGLY CRITICIZING U.S. ROLE IN AREA. AMBASSADOR SAID HE FELT STATEMENTS AS QUOTED IN PRESS WERE UNFAIR, PARTICULARLY SUGGESTION THAT WE HAD DESERTED THIEU. AS INDONESIANS THEMSELVES HAD POINTED OUT, WE HAD DIFFICULTY IN SUPPORTING REGIME WHICH LACKED INTERNAL STRENGTH. MALIK DID NOT DENY STATEMENT BUT SAID IT WAS TRUE THAT U.S. SHOULD NOT BE BLAMED TOTALLY FOR WHATPHAPPENED IN VIETNAM.

10. AMBASSADOR SAID HE IS FREQUENTLY ASKED IN INDONESIA WHETHER U.S. SUPPORTS ASEAN AND ASKED FOREIGN MINISTER WHETHER THERE IS ANY DOUBT AMONG ASEAN MEMBERS REGARDING POSITIVE ATTITUDE OF U.S. TOWARD THIS REGIONAL GROUPING. MALIK SAID THERE WAS NO DOUBT AND THAT POSTURE OF U.S., WHICH QUIETLY SUPPORTS ASEAN BUT AVOIDS PUBLIC STATEMENTS, WAS PROPER.

11. ON MAYAQUEZ INCIDENT, AMBASSADOR DREW ON DEPTTEL 116548 TO EMPHASIZE BASIS FOR U.S. ACTION. HE STRESSED THAT U.S. HAD LONG REGARDED FREEDOM OF SEAS AS OF MAJOR IMPORTANCE AND NO PRESIDENT COULD FAIL TO REACT TO SUCH SEIZURE. MALIK SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THIS ALTHOUGH IT DID CREATE "POLITICAL PROBLEMS IN AREA." AMBASSADOR STRESSED THAT IF HE WAS REFERRING TO THAI PROBLEM, THAILAND HAD NOW ACCEPTED OUR EXPRESSION OF REGRET ON MARINE LANDING.

12. COMMENT: THIS WAS ONCE AGAIN "THE PRIVATE MALIK" AS DISTINCT FROM THE PULIC MALIK (JAKARTA 5963). HOWEVER, HIS ACCOUNT OF ASEAN DISCUSSIONS CHECKS WITH CONFIDENTIAL

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OTHERS AND IS PROBABLY BASICALLY ACCURATE.
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